

MAR 05 2004

SENT VIA FACSIMILE

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE - EXAMINING GROUP 1640****PATENT****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicants** : Richard Ian Christopherson et al.  
**Application No.** : 09/888,959  
**Filed** : June 25, 2001  
**For** : ASSAY TO DETECT A BINDING PARTNER

**Examiner** : Anne L. Holleran  
**Art Unit** : 1642  
**Docket No.** : 650061.401C1  
**Date** : March 5, 2004

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**

Commissioner for Patents:

In response to the Office Action dated November 18, 2003, please extend the period of time for response one month, to expire on March 18, 2004. Enclosed is a Petition for an Extension of Time. The Director is authorized to charge the amount of \$880, which includes the fee for the extension of time and the enclosed Request for Continued Examination to Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Please amend the application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this paper.